

REMARKS

A certified copy of the French application relied on for priority is forwarded herewith.

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the French application relied on for priority.

Claims 10-20 have been added to provide Applicants with the protection to which they are deemed entitled. New claims 10-18 are similar to previously submitted claims 1-9, but the newly added claims are apparatus claims. Therefore, claims 10-18 are infringed at the time the goods are sold, prior to being put into use. Claims 19 and 20 more specifically define the function of the algorithm recited in claims 1 and 10, respectively. Support for the limitations of claims 19 and 20 is found at paragraph [0072] of the application as published.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 as being anticipated by Brickell et al, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0145223. Brickell discloses transmitting authenticated data requested by delegate 210b from a relaying party 230 according to delegated credentials information CI. Delegation credential service provider DCSP 250 registers delegation, including delegation credential information between a delegate and a delegator, and sends a digital certificate and a delegation certificate to both delegate and delegator [0028]. The delegate certificate includes delegate identity, delegator identity, delegation specification, certified delegator signature and certified delegate signature [0035].

The delegate signs a service request with his private signature key [0033] to send the signal service request with a digital certificate and an available delegation certificate to the relaying party (steps 330) [0034, 0036]. Based on the service request, the relaying party requests credential information of the delegate and/or the delegator to provider DCSP (step 350) [0033]. If provider DCSP is permitted to receive the service request, provider DCSP sends back the requested credential information to the relaying party, which authenticates the information with respect to the service request [0058]. Based on the authentication result, the relaying party sends a service response to the delegate (step 370).

Applicants' claim 1 relates to an electronic signature delegation method wherein a delegate

can execute an electronic signature on predetermined data in his terminal in the name of at least one titleholder (delegator) who has mandated the delegate.

Brickell fails to disclose delegating signing predetermined data by a given first member (delegate) mandated by a second member (delegator). Instead, Brickell discloses a data transmission between a delegate mandated by a delegator and a relaying party 230 according to credential information of the delegate or the delegator.

In Brickell, the delegation relationship allows transmission of data from the relaying service to the delegate. In contrast, claim 1 requires the delegation relationship to allow the signature of data by a delegate (first member) mandated by a delegate (second member), wherein the signed data are sent to any user terminal. The delegation objective of the present invention is wholly different from the delegation objective of Brickell.

Concerning the reading step of claim 1, the Examiner interprets the Brickell provider DCSP as the delegation means in claim 1, the DCSP including information relevant to the delegation, such as the identities of the delegator and the delegate. In claim 1, the terminal reads the first and second information in the delegation means. This is not the same as the Brickell statement that the relaying party requests credential information from the provider DCSP as described in step 340 (Fig. 3).

For the second step relating to the signature, the Examiner refers to the portion of Brickell related to signing the service request applied by the delegate with its private key [0033]. The Examiner considers that the predetermined data in claim 1 is the service request signed by the delegate in Brickell. In fact, the predetermined data are analogous to data or services provided by the relaying party.

In claim 1, the terminal produces a signature as a result of predetermined data, the first information of the first member, second information of the second member and a private key being applied to a cryptographic algorithm of the terminal. Brickell fails to disclose such a relationship. Referring to [0034], the request signature depends only on a delegate private key and a certifying authority private key and on no delegator information which is analogous to the second information from which the signature is produced as in applicants' claim 1.

Concerning the transmitting step, the Brickell service response is sent from the relaying party to the delegate while the predetermined data and associated signature in claim 1 are sent from the terminal (delegate) to any user terminal interested in the data.

are sent from the terminal (delegate) to any user terminal interested in the data.

Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated or suggested by Brickell and therefore dependent claims 2-8 are allowable with claim 1.

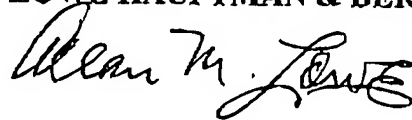
Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 9 as being unpatentable over Brickell in view of Garay (US Patent 6,839,436). Garay does not cure the foregoing deficiencies in the rejection of claim 1. Instead, Garay discloses broadcast encryption techniques to encrypt digital content to ensure that only privileged users are able to recover the content from an encrypted broadcast (column 1, lines 12-16).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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